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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Conditions in Zambales Province

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- Morale of HMB forces in northern Zambales Province is low at present as a result of anti-HMB operations conducted by Philippine Ground Forces (PGF) units stationed in towns from Tba to Santa Cruz.
- Although PGF operations in Zambales have not been very aggressive, they have served to keen HMB forces close to mountain strongholds and divided into small groups. These groups, varying in size from five to ten members, have entered outlying barrios of towns throughout the province at night principally to procure food supplies either by soliciting voluntary contributions or by force when necessary.
- HMB units in this section of the province have shifted their strongholds frequently to avoid PGF patrols. Leaders of HTB units apparently are apprised regularly of the locations of PGF encampments, and HMB patrols thus are able to avoid encountering superior Government forces.
- HMB forces have been staging reprisels against civilian residents of the area who are known to have informed Government troops of the locations of HMB encomponents. During January 1951, three residents of the town of Candelaria were victimized by the HMB. One of these persons has disappeared, and two others were killed. A resident of Masinloc escaped from HMB abductors.
- 5. Between the towns of Iba and Santa Cruz, the strength of HMB units varies from 80 to 120 men per unit. These units usually are divided into smaller groups which are well armed with light weapons. Yost of the HMB strength is concentrated in the mountains, although some MMB troops are active in interior barries near the mountains. A few troops wearing civilian clothes regularly enter outlying settlements of remote towns.
- Generally, residents of this section of the province are extremely apprehensive 6. over the presence of HVB units nearby. Many residents of outlying barrios have evacuated their homes for the greater relative security of larger settlements and towns.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- 7. Although HMB spokesmen attempt to convince civilian residents of the sincerity of their motives and of their friendship, the townspeople appear to have very little confidence in such statements as a result of HMB reprisals which they have seen or which have been described to them. Residents of both barrios and towns displayed considerable reluctance to discuss the HMB for fear of threatened reprisals.
- 8. HMS units have selected contacts in every town and barrio in this area of the province. If a resident cooperates with Government forces by volunteering information on the HMP or by furnishing information when he is requested to do so, an HMB contact usually will report this action and the individual will later be victimized.
- 9. HMB contacts frequently operate within PGF encampments, and they regularly supply detailed information on troop dispositions.
- 10. HMB forces almost invariably move during darkness, remaining close to mountain strongholds during daylight. When contacts are made to collect food, contributors are made to swear that they will not report their presence to Government forces. In some settlements, the HMB has forced barrio lieutenants to direct food collections.
- 11. Vicente Chiong, a Chinese mestizo now residing in Manila, left Cendeloria to avoid PGF and Philippine Constabulary investigators. Chiong is believed to have served as an HMB contact in northern Zambales.